

Jody Mazzarelli

June <sup>29</sup>~~28~~, 2012

I want to clear up one statement that our Vice President said about the distance a Mobile Home Park was to a Levee for evacuation. I have brought pictures as an example. Here is a Mobile Home Park and as you can see it is right on the other side of the road. See Pictures 1 & 2.

I have also brought a picture of a hut used during the reclaiming years. See picture #3. I have also brought some info about Bethel Island and a timeline of its creation.

Pearl & Bill Beers, Bill was an architect and draftsman. Bill sold yachts and one day a week he was the skipper on the Victory II that carried cars, trucks and people from Jersey Island to 3 other Islands. Bill also charted the first course on the San Joaquin River from Stockton to Three Mile Slough. This area became the Stockton Deep Water Channel, making it possible for Ocean-going vessels to come upriver to Stockton. The chart was so accurate that when the Government installed channel lights they hired Bill to be the light tender for the 30 mile course.

In 1902 William T Sesone, a large landowner at the time, knew that the rich sediment was better for his crops. He placed a pipe through the Levee and flooded some of his acres which damaged the Levee to the tune of \$385,000.00. This was such a stress on him that he died of a heart attack.

In 1918 Judge Eugene A. Bridgeford, was a Superior Court Judge, owned and operated one of the greatest Holstein cattle ranches. With the help of his 2 sons, Harry & Horace, won widespread fame for their breeds and carried away blue ribbons to add to that fame. He was also instrumental in writing the Water Codes.

Kelly Bauerlein a teenager in 1980 was the first person to swim around Bethel Island where she lived with her parents.

Leroy Burnett in 1958 at the age of 10 started skiing "just for the fun of it". In 1966 he beat the world's best at the Master Slalom recorded in the National championships.

John Christian Franks owned land on the Tract and he also was the owner of J.C. Franks Dredging Co, one of the principal companies that dredged and created the Levees and water ways in the Delta.

Voyle Gilmore was the President of Capitol records in New York. He came to Bethel Island to fish in a tournament. When he decided to retire he moved here. He ran a boatyard and a Dry dock. He was instrumental in getting the Beatles to come to America.

Above are some of the people from Bethel Island. Their accomplishments, good or bad are written for all to read.

Bethel Island is the "Heart of the Delta". And its Legacy is the numerous people that made history there, then and in the future. Please keep all of Bethel Island in the Legacy City, not just the empty land that has no houses or people.

At the last meeting on June 15th Mr. Nordhoff asked me "What would I have done differently". My question to you and the Council is, "The decisions that you are making about the Delta, will be written as history for years to come. What will be printed in history about the changes you are making about the Delta and the ecosystem? The Delta cannot be fixed by taking more water out. This is similar to the current unfunded pension plans on steroids that are causing our cities to fail.



↖ levee #1

Mobile home Park ↗  
not more than a  $\frac{1}{3}$  mile away from a levee



#3

Example of a hut used  
in the years of reclaiming  
Bethel Island.







#2



# BETHEL ISLAND TIMELINE

The timeline below offers a glance into the development of Bethel Island from a time when Native Americans collected tules for baskets to a time when sportsmen flocked to the island to enjoy fishing and boating.

Early 1800's....Bethel Island was a huge marsh, interlaced with streams and covered with tules and willows which absorbed the spring and winter floods.

1860.....Mr. Stone reclaimed the land known as Bethel Island today under the Swamp and Overflowed Act of 1855. This site became known as Stone Tract.

1870.....Major William K. Bethell purchased land from Stone. The land was used to grow feed for the dairy herd on the island.

1871.....Jesse Cheney purchased land on Stone Tract from Bethell.

1878.....Stone Tract land value was set at \$5 per acre according to Contra Costa County Assessors records; and Bethell & Company owned 2,200 acres, while Haggin & Davis owned 3,773 acres.

1880.....Sand Mound School was established. This one room school house was located on the west side of Bethel Island Road at Gateway Road.

1890's....Bethel Island became an island when Dutch Slough was dredged to the east to meet Sandmound Slough, Taylor Slough was extended south by dredging to meet Dutch Slough, and Piper Slough was extended south to meet Sandmound Slough.

1894.....Majority of landowners appoint a board to oversee the building of a new levee around the land and reconstruct the old levee.

1898.....Stone Tract was renamed Bethel Island when the County Board of Supervisors sold a strip of land 45' wide for a road to Frank and Anne Bethell.

1902.....William T. Sesone became holder of a large portion of the island.

1907.....The island suffered a devastating levee break.

1911.....Reclamation District 799 was declared valid by the courts and William Shafer served as chairman of the Board. Shafer resigned in 1912 and William J. Hotchkiss was elected to the position in 1913.

1913.....Judge E. A. Bridgeford built his home in the middle of the island. Bridgeford raised prize cattle and ran a dairy. During the 1940's the house was converted into a restaurant, named Mounds Club. This house in recent years was the office of Wes Anderson Engineering.

1915.....Reclamation District 1619 was organized under a part of Swamplands District #1 and parts of Districts 102, 107 and 183.

1916.....William Josephus Hotchkiss acquired 1,317 acres of Bethel Island to grow potatoes, beans, and sugar beets.

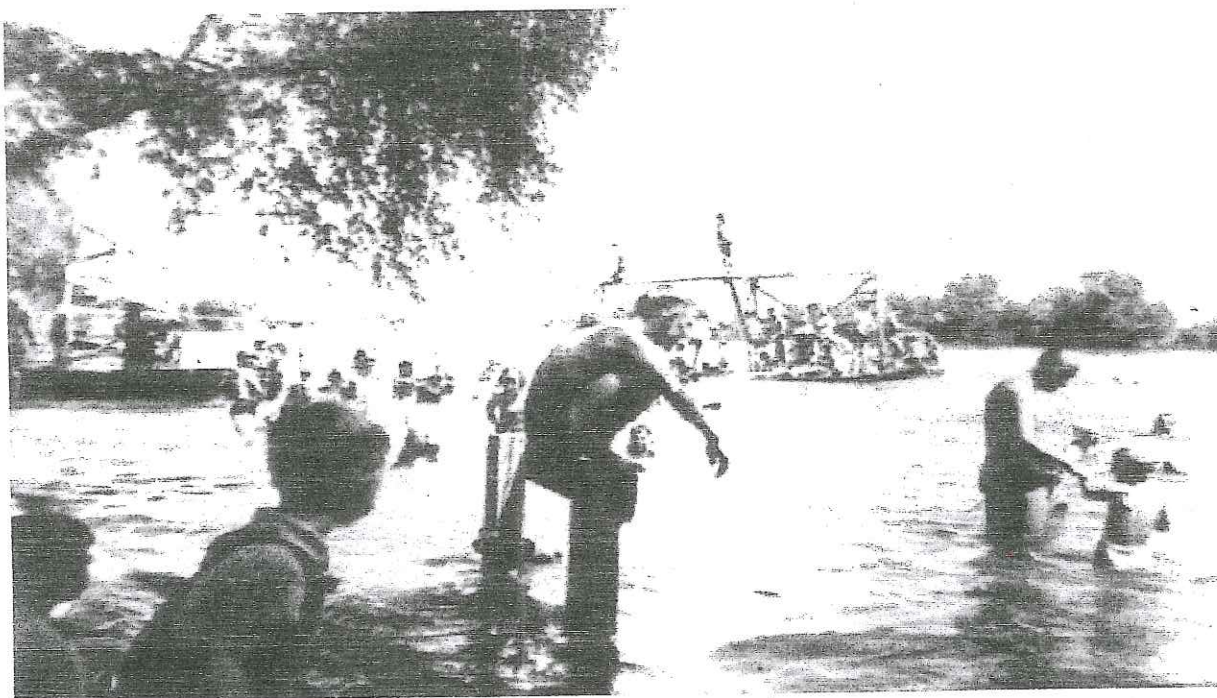
1918.....Judge E.A. Bridgeford organized the Bridgeford Company, which was a group of livestock breeders and dairymen. Bridgeford had a large herd of Holstein-Friesian cattle and started one of the first dairies in the area.

1918.....Bethel Island bridge, a one lane wood-planked structure, was built over Dutch Slough.

1920.....Sand Mound School closed and was moved to the Iron House School on the corner of Sellers Avenue and Cypress Road where it was used as a classroom.



- 1927.....A farmer was installing a floodgate in the levee and left the project unattended. During the night high tide came rushing through the excavation, washed out the levee and flooded the island.
- 1928.....Federal revenue agents raided an operating still on the island allegedly owned and operated by the son of a prominent area landowner. Newspapers said the operation supplied area bootleggers on a "gigantic scale".
- 1929.....High tides and rain broke the levees and flooded the island. The levees were repaired, and the island was pumped out and farming resumed.
- 1930's...Bethel Island became a fishing paradise and a favorite haunt for sportsmen looking for a prize winning striped bass.
- 1930....Blanche and Jack Farrar moved to Bethel Island to farm. They cleared a eucalyptus grove near the Bethel Island bridge to make a recreation area. Farrar's Park was on a site between the bridge and Stone Road. This became one of the area's favorite recreation sites. The park offered guests a picnic area, sandy beach, and cabins. The charge was twenty five cents per car and five cents per person.



*Farrar Park*

- 1937.....Before the original debt from the 1929 levee repair was paid off, the levees again broke and the landowners, overwhelmed by the second disaster, gave up and let the river reclaim what was originally its own. A 3,600 acre lake was created, known as Frank's Tract Lake.
- 1938.....Warren "Cap" Remsburg built the first boat harbor on the Island (near the bridge). Cap had 14 rowboats that he rented for \$1 a day.
- 1939....Three hundred yards of the choicest top soil in which plants of many varieties were planted was taken from Bethel Island to Treasure Island during the Golden Gate International Exposition.



- 1945.....Connie and Flo Klein created Bethel Harbor.
- 1945.....Frank and Ted Andronico (brothers) built Frank's Marina. They offered a boat rental service, renting boats for \$1.50 per day.
- 1945.....Judy and Rose Hribernik established a motel.
- 1946.....Bethel Island gets electricity.
- 1947.....Ethel Boxel became the Island's first postmaster. The post office was located in the back of the E & E Cafe, owned and operated by Ethel and Ed Boxel.
- 1947.....The Island gets its first firehouse. It was a war-surplus quonset hut placed on a site donated by Leroy Thomas. Charles Maxwell was the first fire chief.
- 1948.....Cypress Road and Bethel Island were connected. Prior to 1948 to get to Bethel Island you had to take Rose Aveune from Oakley to Cypress Road, then Jersey Island Road, and finally east along Dutch Slough Road to the one lane wooden Bethel Island bridge. A new bridge was also built in 1948 replacing the one lane wooden bridge that had been built thirty years earlier.



*Marina Boulevard*

- 1948.....Gene and Ada Krigbaum came to Bethel Island and built a dry-dock.
- 1948.....The island got its first telephones.
- 1949.....Leroy Thomas donated the land for the Bethel Island Scout Hall.
- 1949.....Julian Hribernik opened a hardware store.
- 1955.....Frank's Tract Lake was purchased by State Parks and Beaches Department of the State of California for \$300,000.
- 1960.....Reclamation District 1619 converted to Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District.
- 1961.....The first edition of *Voice of the Delta* was published and edited by Ross Draper.
- 1961.....The Boat House Lounge was established when Ace Tennis converted a boat repair building into a bar and constructed the bar in the shape of a boat.
- Until Next Time....



1970's...Curb, gutter and sidewalks were installed on the Island's main street. Natural gas pipeline was installed.

1979.....Bethel Island's first Frozen Bun Run sponsored by the Bethel Island Ski Club





# BETHEL ISLAND

When the Delta was first explored by white men it was a huge marsh cut by snag filled and tide influenced waterways. The low lands were covered with tules and willows. The valley oak was dominant, but there were also huge sycamore, laurel, willow, elderberry, locust, and cottonwood trees covering the land. Large flocks of pelicans, ducks, geese, and cranes were common in the lagoons and tule swamps. The rivers were filled with an endless supply of fish and beaver, muskrat, and otter were also bountiful.

Local Indians, in a primitive fashion, farmed the rich soil. They used the tule reeds to construct boats, homes, and baskets. The Indians lived a good life, and mother nature supplied them with an abundance of fish and game. During the winter months they moved into the foothills away from the waterfront.

By 1850, during the gold rush days, paddlewheel steamers ran between San Francisco and Sacramento, as well as Stockton. Many of those ships were woodburners using river oak and pine cut in four foot lengths and collected at the rivers edge. Some consumed as much as a cord of wood per hour. Long before the railroads arrived or there were adequate roads in this region of California the river was used as the primary means of travel.

What made the Delta was its people. It was people that reclaimed the land. They built dikes and levees, dug the channels, created river ports and landings, and defied Mother Nature herself. When the waters swelled over the banks of the rivers to reclaim what was hers, it was the people that rebuilt the levees and started all over again. Early settlers purchased large tracts of land as early as 1855 for one dollar an acre throughout the Delta region. By 1878 land values had increased to \$5 an acre.

In 1860 Mr. Stone reclaimed the land where Bethel Island is located today. Stone acted under the Swamp and Overflow Act of 1855. The island was originally known as Stone Tract and didn't actually become an island until the late 1890's when Dutch Slough was dredged to the east to meet Sandmound Slough. Taylor Slough was extended south by dredging to meet Dutch Slough, and Piper Slough was extended to meet Sandmound Slough.

In the early days, Stone Tract was known for the rich soil that grew cattle feed and grains and for the dairies that were established there. The land yielded hay and grain that was transported to market by barge.

Major Willaim K. Bethell purchased a large tract of land (approximately 3500 acres) from Mr. Stone. In 1871 Bethell sold part of his holdings to Mr. J.Cheney. Apparently the name was changed from Stone Tract to Bethel Island in 1898 when the Board of Supervisors sold a strip of land forty five feet wide for one dollar to Frank and Anna Bethell for a road. Why the second "l" was left off no one knows.

The first residents of Bethel Island received their mail and supplies by boat delivery. They were very isolated from the other communities of East Contra Costa County.

Reclamation District 1619 was established in 1915 as part of the Swamplands District #1, 102, 107, and 183. These earlier districts had been formed in 1894 to raise funding for levee maintenance. Reclamation District 1619 became the Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District in 1960.

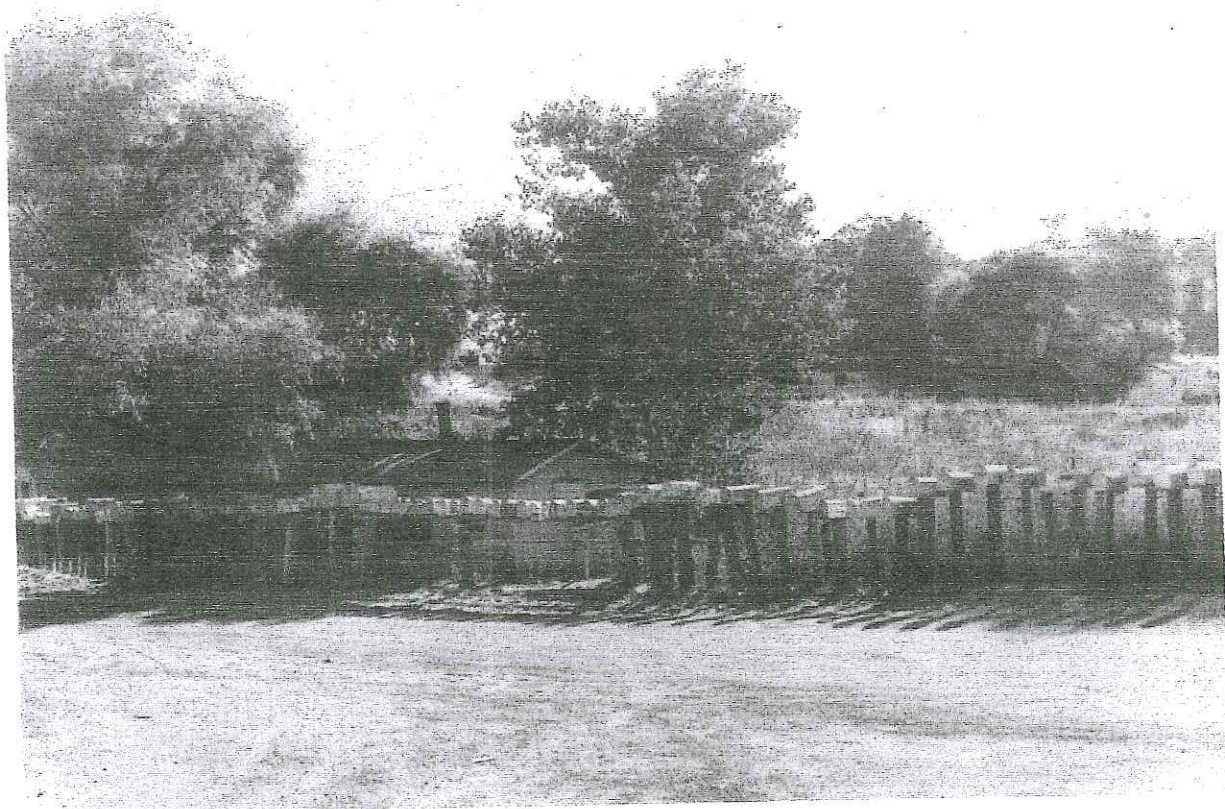
In 1916 William J. Hotchkiss acquired 1,317 acres on Bethel Island to grow potatoes, beans, and sugar beets. About the same time Judge E.A. Bridgford purchased property and established a cattle ranch.

A single lane wooden bridge made out of 2 by 12 planks was constructed in the 1920's. The



Farrar family cleared a eucalyptus grove and established a recreation area near the bridge. This was Bethel Island's first recreation related enterprise. Many old timers in the area recall picnics, swimming, and Sunday afternoons at Farrar Park.

By the 1940s hunters and fishermen had established a week end colony near the old wooden bridge. After World War II, hunting and fishing cottages began to spring up on the periphery of the island. Sportsmen, fishermen, and boat enthusiasts had discovered the peace, and quiet, and solitude that Bethel Island offered and came in droves. It wasn't until 1946 that Bethel Island got electricity. In 1948 they got telephone service. On August 16, 1946 the first Post Office was established in the rear of the E&E Cafe with Ethel Boxel as postmaster. Prior to the coming of postal service, residents received their mail in a row of boxes nailed to a fence near the bridge. With the arrival of these services the population of the island increased to a point where the one lane bridge had to be replaced. The building of the new bridge marked a turning point in Bethel Island's history. The first post office was built, stores were constructed, and facilities were established to offer complete boat launching, fishing, and other recreational activities.



*Bethel Islands early postal service*

Modern Bethel Island has about 3000 acres. It is assumed, that before reclamation, Stone Tract was about 6,000 acres which could have included land known today as Hotchkiss Tract.

Today Bethel Island is the most densely populated island in the Delta and offers complete services for permanent residents as well as weekend visitors. The island is often referred to as "the heart of the Delta". Until Next Time....



## DELTA TIMELINE

**1772:** First recorded sighting of Delta by Fray Juan Crespi and Captain Pedro Farges.

**1830-1845:** Fur trappers claim the rich Delta as their private hunting preserve.

**1849:** First settlers arrive in the Delta.

**1850:** Congress passes the Federal Swamp and Overflow Act, which provides for the title of wetlands to be transferred from the federal government to the states.

**1852:** Reuben Kercheval builds the first levee at Grand Island.

**1861:** California Legislature authorizes the Reclamation District Act, allowing drainage of Delta lands and construction of sturdier levees.

**1861-1862:** Big flood almost wipes out the city of Sacramento.

**1869:** Sherman Island is the site of the first coordinated levee system.

**1879:** Striped bass is brought from the East Coast to the Delta.

**1884:** Federal Circuit Court decision bans dumping of mining debris in California rivers and Delta channels.

**1933:** Congress authorizes the Central Valley Project network of dams and canals.

**1940:** Export of Delta water begins with U.S. Bureau of Reclamation completion of the Contra Costa Canal.

**1959:** State Legislature passes the Delta Protection Act and the Burns-Porter Act to assist in financing the State Water Project, including Delta facilities.

**1960:** California voters approve the State Water Project, which opens its Delta pumping plant near Tracy in 1967.

**1971:** State Water Resources Control Board adopts its Delta Water Rights Decision 1379, establishing Delta water quality standards to be met by the Central Valley Project.

**1973:** California Aqueduct completed to Southern California. Legislature passes SB541 to provide financial as-

sistance for maintenance and improvement of certain Delta levees. Delta Environmental Advisory Committee concludes that the Peripheral Canal is necessary to protect the Delta.

**1978:** State Water Resources Control Board issues Water Right Decision 1485, updating Delta water quality standards.

**1980:** Peripheral Canal becomes the Delta water transfer facility, requiring staged and fish screen testing.

**1982:** California voters defeat Proposition 9, includes the Peripheral Canal.

**1986:** California Supreme Court affirms the Racanelli decision, which strengthens the State Water Resources Control Board powers to protect the Bay/Delta system.

**1987:** A six-year drought begins, focusing the political spotlight on water.

**1989:** Sacramento River winter-run chinook salmon is declared a threatened species.

**1992:** Legislature passes the Delta Protection Act establishing the Delta Protection Commission. Congress passes the Central Valley Project Improvement Act, which allows water transfers from Central Valley Project contractors to other water users, reforms water pricing and commits up to 800,000 acre-feet annually to fish and wildlife purposes.

**1993:** Delta smelt is listed as a threatened species.

**1994:** Gov. Pete Wilson and President Bill Clinton approve the historic Delta accord. It provides new Delta salinity standards and a framework for finding a permanent fix to the Delta's problems.

**1996:** CALFED, a state-federal consortium, proposes options to fix the Delta and begins at least two years of public review.

— Camille Donaldson and Virginia Stemler

SOURCES: [www.californiadelta.org](http://www.californiadelta.org); "Sacramento Delta San Joaquin Atlas" by California Department of Water Resources

## Artist

FROM PAGE 20

is surrounded by riotously colored flowers.

Hou's intense canvases reflect his preoccupation with almost every aspect of the Delta. Large, airy barns, their beams glittering like mosaics, are painted against sweeping clouds. Drawbridges are strokes of thick impasto paint against moody and turbulent skies. Placid Delta waters are broken up by the serpentine branches of trees that turn into fireballs of color with leaves thick crusts of orange and green.

There's incredible discipline, as well as intense study, behind Hou's kinetic painting. He went through rigorous training in his native China and received instruction from a friend of Picasso's. His talents carried him through the rigors of day-to-day life in communist China, but his

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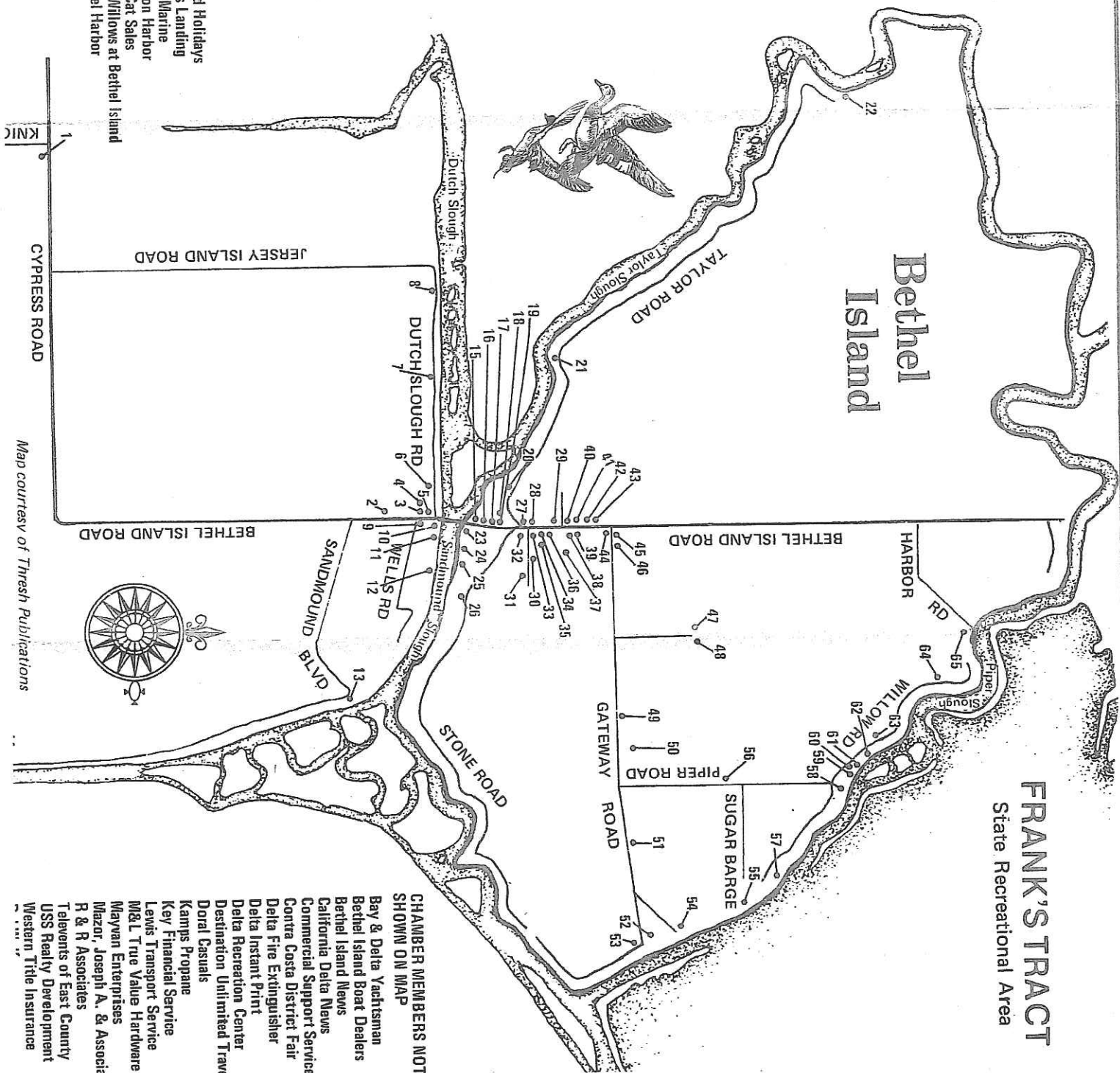
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# CHAMBER MEMBERS

- 1-Mission Bait
- 2-Angel's Yacht Sales
- 3-Marine Emporium
- 4-Canvas Factory
- 5-Kellers Liquors
- 6-Richard's Yacht Sales
- 7-Harris Marina
- 8-Viking Harbor Boat Sales
- 9-Tolliver's Moor-ing Yacht Sales
- 10-Century 21 Town & Country
- 11-Rensburg Harbor
- 12-Hennis Marina
- 13-Walt Pierce Marine
- 14-Carol's Harbor
- 15-Bethel Island Yacht Sales
- 16-Delta Sportsman
- 17-M&M Smith Real Estate
- 18-Bethel Island Chamber of Commerce
- 19-Gale Walker C.P.A.
- 20-Harbor Yacht Sales
- 21-Mozzetti Marine
- 22-Leisure Landing
- 23-Carter's Marine
- 24-Farrar Park Harbor
- 25-San Joaquin Yacht Club
- 26-Taylor Needlecraft
- 27-Boat House Lounge
- 28-Bill's Bethel Market
- 29-Village Square - Williamson Const. Co.
- 30-Bethel Island Fire Department
- 31-Scout Hall - B.I. Community Center
- 32-Wm. Boyd Real Estate
- 33-Bileci's
- 34-Bethel Island Beacon
- 35-Prints Charming
- 36-Filippo's Pizza
- 37-Delta Bell
- 38-Perry's Marine
- 39-Judy's Hardware
- 40-Capra-Quarins Marine
- 41-Bethel Plaza
- Bethel Island Realty
- Burns Engineering
- Sipes Electronics
- 42-Phillips's Secretarial Service
- 43-Moody's Prop Shop
- 44-Wally's Restaurant & Deli
- 45-Vista El Dorado Real Estate
- 46-Campora Propane
- 47-Bethel Island Golf Course
- 48-Sandtrap Restaurant
- 49-Island Mobile Home Park
- 50-Bethel Baptist Church
- 51-Bethel Lodge Motel
- 52-Frank's Cove
- 53-Frank's Marina
- 54-Riverview Marina
- 55-Donovan's Marina

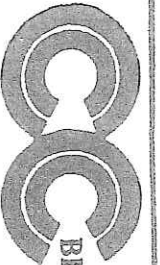


## FRANK'S TRACT State Recreational Area

### CHAMBER MEMBERS NOT SHOWN ON MAP

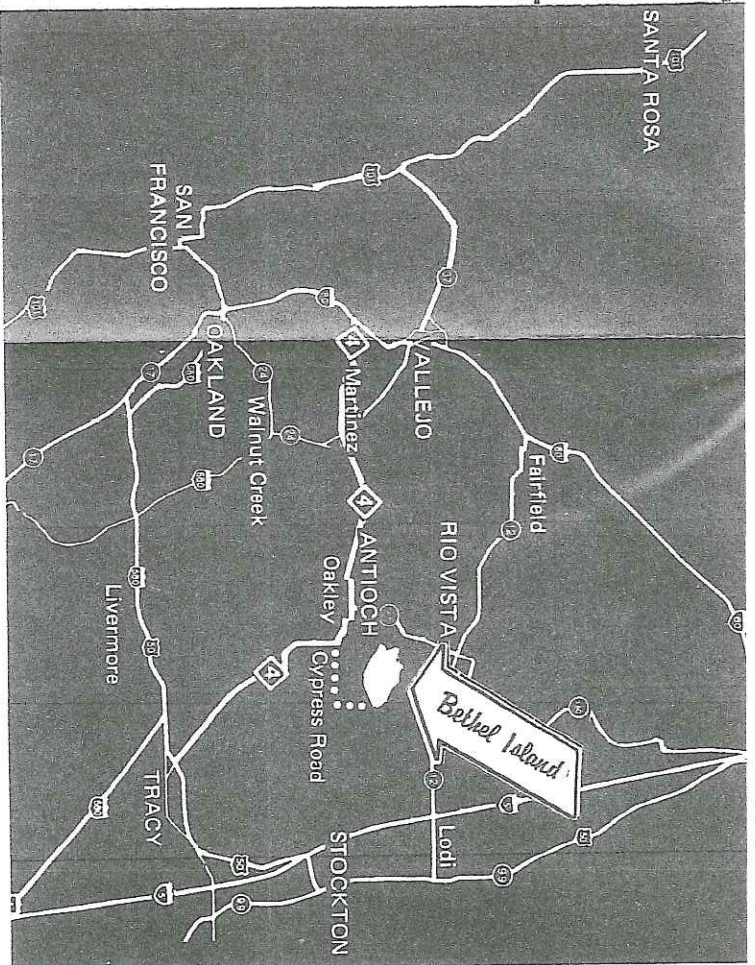
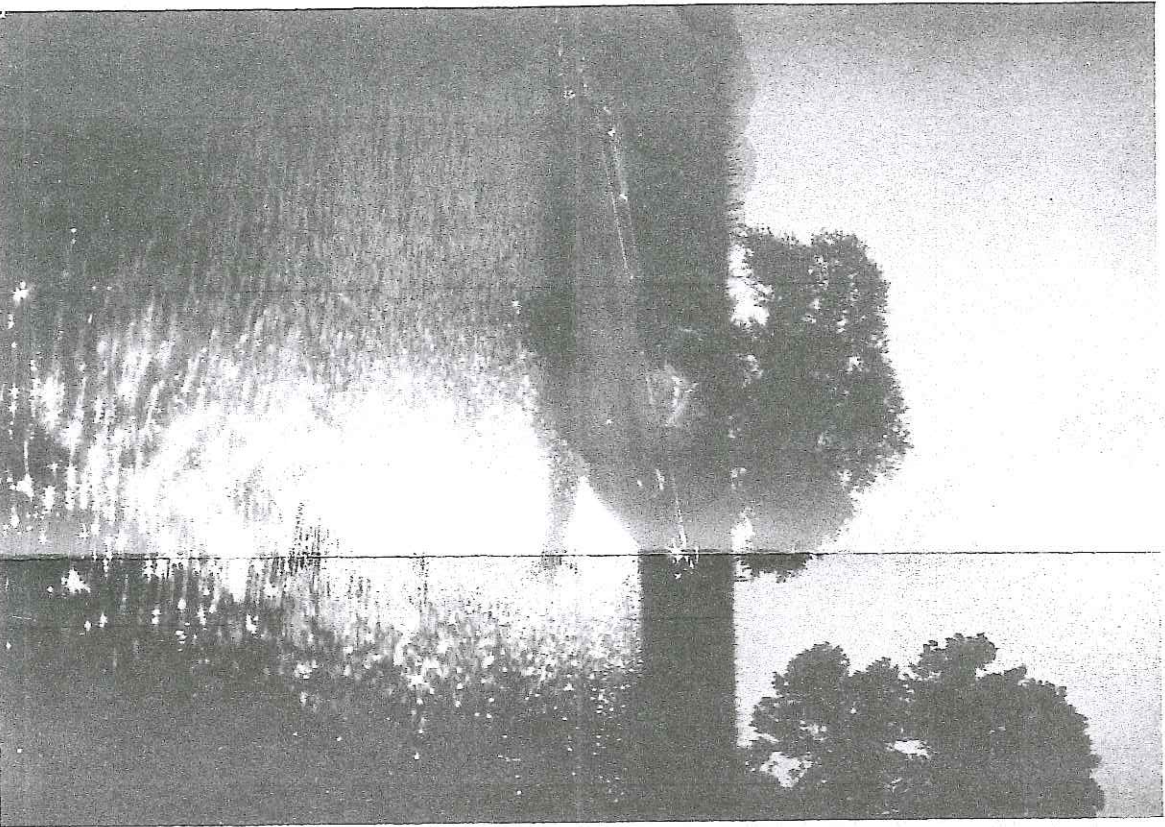
- Bay & Delta Yachtsman
- Bethel Island Boat Dealers
- Bethel Island News
- California Delta News
- Commercial Support Service
- Contra Costa District Fair
- Delta Fire Extinguisher
- Delta Instant Print
- Delta Recreation Center
- Destination Unlimited Travel
- Doral Casuals
- Kamps Propane
- Key Financial Service
- Lewis Transport Service
- M&L True Value Hardware
- Mayan Enterprises
- Mazur, Joseph A. & Associates
- R & R Associates
- Telents of East County
- USS Realty Development
- Western Title Insurance





# BETHEL ISLAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

P.O. Box 263 6155 Bethel Island Road  
Bethel Island, CA 94511 (415) 684 - 3220

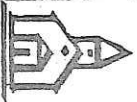


## DELTA FISH DERBY (Thanksgiving week)

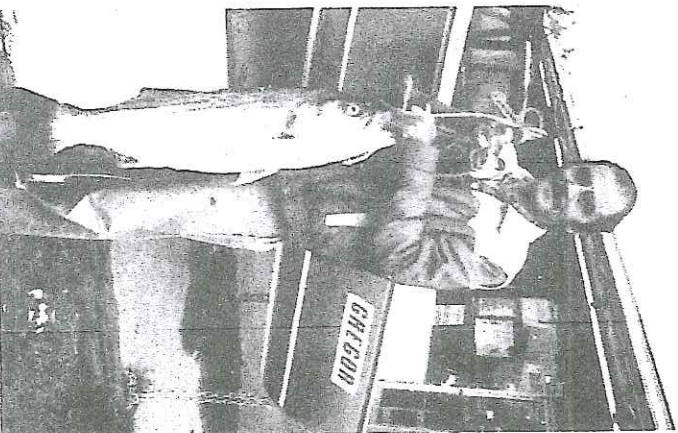
Probably the biggest and most attended event on the Island is the Annual Fish Derby, a week-long fishing contest sponsored by the Bethel Island Chamber of Commerce, which draws fishermen and women from far and near. The Derby is one of the oldest Island traditions, the first one being held in 1948.

### CHURCH SERVICES

*Bethel Baptist Chapel*  
Gateway Road, Bethel Island



Sunday School	9:45 a.m.
Worship Services	11:00 a.m.
Evening Services	7:00 p.m.
Wednesday Prayer Meeting	7:00 p.m.





# Bethel Island starts

## Historian recounts the history of most populous Delta island

By Bob Gromm

Correspondent

The history of Bethel Island is replete with names, places and happenings which all had an impact on the Island's development over a comparatively short time.

Ancient history for what is known today as Bethel Island started in 1860, when a Mr. Stone reclaimed the land under the Swamp and Overflowed Act of 1855. It was first known as Stone Tract.

It didn't become an island until the late 1890s, when Dutch Slough was dredged to the east to meet Sandmound Slough, Taylor Slough was extended south by dredging to meet Dutch Slough, and Piper Slough was extended south to meet Sandmound Slough.

Apparently its name was changed to Bethel Island when, in 1901, the County Board of Supervisors sold a strip of land 45 feet wide for a road to Frank and Anne Bethell.

In its early days, Stone Tract was known for its dairies and the livestock feed grown there. In 1900, the Sand Mound School (notice Sand Mound was two words back then) was located on the west side of Bethel Island Road at Gateway Road.

One of the teachers at this school was Edna Nelson, who later became Mrs. Benjamin Burroughs, the mother of Randall, Oscar, Ernest and Cynthia.

Since the levees in the area were inadequate, there were periods of flooding, forcing Nelson to coe to school by boat.

The school closed in 1920, and the building was moved to become a third classroom at the Iron House School, which was at the corner of Cypress Road and Sellers Avenue for 76 years.

This school building became the

home of Stan and Katie Emerson and, in 1972, was moved back off the corner onto the Emerson Ranch.

In 1915, Reclamation District 1619 was organized from a part of Swamplands District #1 and parts of Districts 102, 107, and 183. These early districts were formed in 1894 to raise money to build new levees around the Island.

Modern history for Bethel Island started in 1945, right after World War II, and more people were tending to use their free time for recreation. It was the beginning of lightweight outboard motors, boats on trailers and more time for fishing in the Delta.

Few of today's Island residents realize there was no electricity on the Island until 1946. Telephones followed only two years later. As late as 1961, there was a toll charge to phone Oakley.

It was during 1945 and 1946 that Connie and Flo Klein sold their grocery store in Oakley and created Bethel Harbor. The same year, Ted and Ida Andronico left their grocery business in Oakland and, along with Ted's brother, Frank, built Frank's Marina on the island. They both started out by renting boats for \$1.50 per day.

In late 1945, Julian "Judy" Hribernik and his wife, Rose, bought a commercial lot for \$450 from Leroy Thomas, where they built a motel and their home from a war surplus building.

In those days, Hribernik did plumbing with Amos Bomer, who did electrical work, and the two worked on building the Riverview and Marchetti restaurants in Antioch. Hribernik didn't open his hardware store on the Island until 1949.

Leroy Thomas also figures in Bethel Island history, for it was his civic generosity that moved him to



Anchor Marina harbormaster

donate the land for the Bethel Island firehouse and Scout Hall. The original firehouse was a war surplus Quonset hut, and Scout Hall was built with donations of labor and materials.

Ethel Boxel became the Island's first postmaster in 1947, in the first post office, located at the corner of the E&E Cafe, owned and operated by Ed and Ethel Boxel.

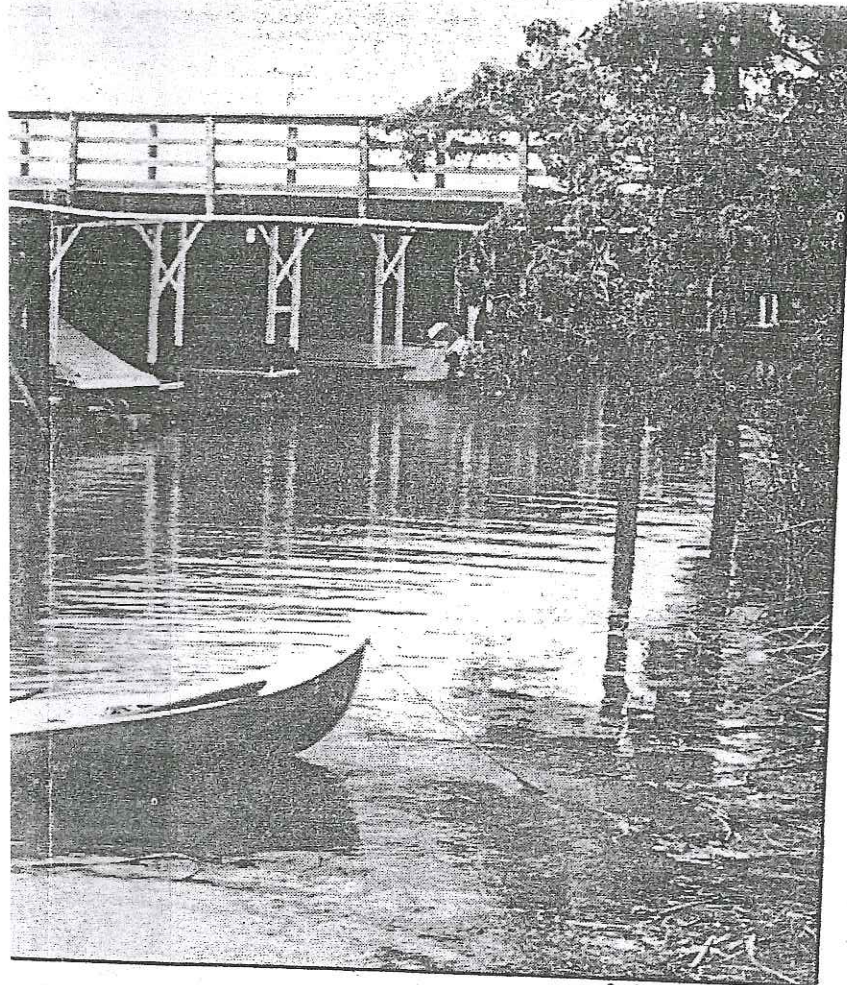
Before that, Island mail was delivered to a row of mail boxes nailed to a plank on top of posts over the bridge at Riverview Ranch.

During this same period, Stone was busy pouring foundations for the building of the Bell Club, which, in the 1960s, was for



## IN FAR EAST COUNTY

# ed out as Stone Tract



Staff photo/Greg Stidham

tt Smalley paddles around the island marina in this 1990 file photo.

ous for its Chinese food and owned by Irv Podris. Today the building houses Billici's Ristorante.

Another Island watering hole, the Boat House Lounge, got its name when, in 1961, Ace Tennis converted a boat-repair building into a bar and constructed it in the shape of a boat. This same building, when it housed a pool hall, had been the Island's gathering place in the 1940s before Scout Hall.

The start of the Island's famous Farrar Park happened when Jack and Blanche Farrar bought the cafe and bar operated by Mom Duda and her two sons, George and John. This cafe and bar was located on the levee at the end of the bridge,

where Summit Marine is located today.

About 1948, Gene and Ada Krigbaum came to Bethel Island and built a drydock facility that today is Mozetti Marine on Taylor Road. The elevator at the drydock that takes boats out of the water was built by Bill Baum, who later operated a ship repair yard at Lloyd's Holiday Harbor on Wilbur Avenue in Antioch. Krigbaum also operated a Shell gas station and auto repair shop on Bethel Island Road, where Capri-Quarius Marine is today.

There was no curbs, gutters or sidewalks on the Island's main street until the 1970s. And while they were being constructed, a nat-

*Modern history for Bethel Island started in 1945, right after World War II, and more people were tending to use their free time for recreation. Few of today's Island residents realize there was no electricity on the Island until 1946. Telephones followed only two years later.*

ural gas pipeline was installed, but it has never been used. The Island still depends on propane.

Because the Bethel Island Specific Plan has established minimum growth for Bethel Island, the future of the Island lies in convincing the powers that be that Island growth is possible and safe behind levees which will protect urban development.

This is a big change from less than 50 years ago, when the county thought so little of the area that it didn't require a building permit to build a fishing shack on the levee, or a motel or firehouse from a metal war surplus building.